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From: Sarah Jacobson

**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 6:46:49 PM

Subject: Statement - Irrigation Ditches Flushed, Turbid Water Expected Today

## CONTACT

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2015

## Statement from Local Responders - Irrigation Ditches Flushed, Turbid Water Expected Today

Wednesday evening, inspecting and flushing began on select irrigation ditches. This is a measured step towards opening irrigation for farmers and ranchers who depend on Animas River water for their crops and livestock. In the North Animas Valley, the Reid Ditch and West Animas Ditch were flushed yesterday and work is currently being done on additional ditches south of Durango.

The flushing of those ditches produced a slight, temporary change in color of the Animas River, as we expected, that should arrive in Durango City limits mid-day today.

Operators of ditches that take water from the Animas River are asked to call the Call Center at 970-385-8700, open from 8am – 6pm, and provide names and phone numbers so officials can coordinate opening of the river head gates. Individual water users are on the ditches and canals are asked to keep their gates closed until notified.